

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A composite material-stiffened panel, comprising:
 - a skin of fiber-reinforced resin composite material;
 - stiffeners with flange portions arranged in rows on one surface of said skin; and
 - a fiber-reinforced resin-composite material covering that covers at least some of said stiffeners and said covering being stitched on said skin along flange portions of said stiffeners in a longitudinal direction of said stiffeners and wherein said covering is only stitched to said skin in regions where there is covering contact with said skin.
2. (Original) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 1, further comprising ribs for connecting said stiffeners arranged in rows.
- 3-6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 1, wherein said covering is reformed so as to match the shape of said stiffeners.
8. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 1, wherein said composite material-stiffened panel is infiltrated with resin by a RTM or an RFI method.
9. (Previously Presented) A composite material stiffened panel, comprising:
 - a first panel-shaped fabric material;
 - stiffeners placed on said first fabric material;
 - a second fabric material placed on said stiffeners so as to cover at least some of said stiffeners, said second fabric material being formed so as to match the shape of said stiffeners, said second fabric material being stitched on said first fabric material along edges of said stiffeners for facilitating positioning of said stiffeners;

a hardened resin infiltrated into said fabric materials, and wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric are made of fiber-reinforced resin-composite material.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A composite material stiffened panel, comprising;

a first panel-shaped fabric material;

stiffeners placed on said first fabric material;

a second fabric material placed on said stiffeners so as to cover at least some of said stiffeners, said second fabric material being formed so as to match the shape of said stiffeners, said second fabric material being stitched on said first fabric material along edges of said stiffeners for facilitating positioning of said stiffeners;

a hardened resin infiltrated into said fabric materials, and wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric material have open cross-sections defining longitudinally extending hollow channels.

12. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 11, wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric material have a U-shaped cross-section with a central raised portion and flange portions extending outwardly to opposite sides of said central raised portion.

13. (Previously Presented) A composite material stiffened panel, comprising;

a first panel-shaped fabric material;

stiffeners placed on said first fabric material;

a second fabric material placed on said stiffeners so as to cover at least some of said stiffeners, said second fabric material being formed so as to match the shape of said stiffeners,

said second fabric material being stitched on said first fabric material along edges of said stiffeners for facilitating positioning of said stiffeners;

a hardened resin infiltrated into said fabric materials, and wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric material are of metal.

14. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9, further comprising ribs with an L-shaped cross-section which are adhered to said second fabric material.

15. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9, further comprising pairs of L-shaped ribs arranged back-to-back along said second fabric material.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9 wherein stitches extend along each side of said stiffeners and are free from contact with said stiffeners.

18. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9 wherein stitches extend in a longitudinal direction of said stiffeners and to each side of said stiffeners for positioning of said stiffeners free of a positioning tool.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A composite material-stiffened panel, comprising:

a skin of fiber-reinforced resin composite material;

a plurality of longitudinally elongated stiffeners arranged in rows on said skin with each of said stiffeners having left and right side edges;

a fiber-reinforced resin-composite covering that covers at least a portion of said stiffeners;

a plurality of stitch lines which extend into the skin and said covering to join said covering to said skin, and said stitch lines being arranged in stiffener aligning stitch line pairs, with each of said pairs having a left stitch line extending longitudinally along and adjacent to the left side of a respective stiffener and a right stitch line extending longitudinally along and adjacent to the right side of that respective stiffener so as to align that respective stiffener between said left and right stitch lines, and said left stitch line of that respective stiffener being the closest stitch line to the left of the right stitch line for that respective stiffener.

22. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel of claim 21 wherein the left and right stitch lines in said pairs of stitch lines are free from contact with respective stiffeners being aligned by the left and right stitch lines.

23. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel of claim 21 wherein said stiffeners include left and right flanges with respective left and right stitch lines extending along and adjacent to said left and right flanges.

24. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel of claim 21 further comprising longitudinally spaced and transversely extending strengthening ribs having recesses for receiving said stiffeners and which ribs are supported by said skin.

25. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel of claim 21 wherein said stiffeners are channel members having side walls and a longitudinally extending cavity.

26. (Currently Amended) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9, wherein said stiffeners placed ~~paced~~ on said first fabric material have open cross-sections defining longitudinally extending hollow channels.

27. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 9, wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric material have a U-shaped cross-section with a central

raised portion and flange portions extending outwardly to opposite sides of said central raised portion.

28. (Currently Amended) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 13, wherein said stiffeners placed ~~paced~~ on said first fabric material have open cross-section defining longitudinally extending hollow channels.

29. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 13, wherein said stiffeners placed on said first fabric material have a U-shaped cross-section with a central raised portion and flange portions extending outwardly to opposite sides of said central raised portion.

30. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 13, further comprising ribs with an L-shaped cross-section which are adhered to said second fabric material.

31. (Previously Presented) The composite material stiffened panel according to claim 13, further comprising pairs of L-shaped ribs arranged back-to-back along said second fabric material.